

~~TOP SECRET U.S.S.R.~~

VENONA

USSR
M.F.A.

PRECAUTIONS FOR SAFEGUARDING SOVIET DIPLOMATIC POSTS

From: MOSCOW, M.F.A.

Circular Message[a]

8 - 13 June 1945

To all Soviet ambassadors, Soviet ministers, consuls-general, consuls, vice-consuls, and political advisers to Allied Control Commissions[SKK][b].[c]

According to information which has reached the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., a foreign intelligence service[INOSTRANNAYA RAZVEDKA][d] has recently begun to show an unusually large amount of interest in Soviet diplomatic post and is setting itself the aim of trying to extract documents from the diplomatic post.

In view of this, diplomatic post is to be classified strictly according to its degree of secrecy and diplomatic couriers are to be given as little classified[SEKRETNYY] diplomatic post as possible (on each individual journey) so as not to make it too difficult for them to keep it under observation.

It is categorically forbidden to pack classified diplomatic post in a common bag[VALIZA] together with unclassified[NESEKRETNYY] diplomatic post, a practice which hitherto has been not uncommon.

Category[LITER][e] "O" packets should be of suitable dimensions for slipping into a side or inside pocket.

Classified and especially important documents not falling within category[KATEGORIYA] "O" should be packed in separate "V" bags and in such a way that they could easily be transferred and, in case of need, destroyed.

A stricter attitude must be observed to the despatch and packing of diplomatic post travelling as luggage[BAGAZhNYJ], and also unclassified diplomatic post.

Before diplomatic couriers are sent off along their routes they should be given detailed information about, and their attention drawn to, those sections of the route where operations by foreign intelligence services are most likely to be carried out.

It is categorically forbidden to issue anyone with courier's papers or to despatch diplomatic post with anyone without having first received the permission of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.

Your attention is drawn to [the need for][f] seeing that diplomatic couriers are properly met and seen off on arrival and departure, and also to [the need for][f] seeing that diplomatic couriers are provided with escorts (especially detailed colleagues) as far as points where the most difficult and important changes[g] take place and especially when diplomatic couriers have a large amount of diplomatic post with them.

It is forbidden to put diplomatic couriers up at hotels during their stops at embassies, missions and consulates. Special rooms are to be set aside as quarters for diplomatic couriers and are to be given to the diplomatic couriers for the duration of their stops.

DEKANOZOV[1]

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- Notes: [a] Known to have been sent to ADDIS ABABA, AHVAZ, BAGHDAD, BEIRUT, CAIRO, CHUNGKING, DAIKIN, HARBIN, KAZVIN, LANCHOW, MANCHOULI, PECHLEVI, RESHT, RIZAIYEH, TABRIZ and TOKYO; to ARDEBIL, BENDER SHAH, CABUL, GORGAN, ISFAHAN, KERMANSHAH, MANU; to ALGIERS, BRUSSELS, HALIFAX, HAVANA, ISTANBUL, LOS ANGELES, NEW YORK, OTTAWA, REYKJAVIK, ROME, SAN FRANCISCO, STOCKHOLM and WASHINGTON.
- [b] SKK = SOYUZNAJA KONTROL'NAYA KOMISSIYA.
- [c] Address omitted in some versions.
- [d] Or merely "foreign intelligence".
- [e] LITER. A category or class designated by a letter of the alphabet. "Q" and "V" here are probably the initial letters of the titles of the two categories.
- [f] Inserted by translator.
- [g] PERESADKI, i.e. changes of train, or from one form of transport to another.

Comments:

- [1] DEKANOZOV, Vladimir Georgievich, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

29 April 1969